

Interview Transcript

Project: Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU)--CSJ Oral History Project

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Interviewee: Sister Adele O'Sullivan

Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Roman Zenz, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Mary Trunk, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University

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Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] [Director's comments].

[00:00:11.14] SHANNON GREEN: It is Friday, February 7, 2020, and Mount Saint Mary's University CSJ Oral History Project at Carondelet Center, with Sister Adele O'Sullivan.

[00:00:26.27] SHANNON GREEN: Sister Adele, would you get us started by--would you tell us your full name and your age?

[00:00:33.16] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: My name is Sister Adele O'Sullivan, and I'm 69 years old.

[00:00:39.11] SHANNON GREEN: Would you tell us a little bit about your childhood, where you grew up, a little bit about your family?

[00:00:46.00] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Sure. I was born in Los Angeles [California], right here--what's now the South Central part of the city, and really lived my whole life until I entered within blocks of that same area--St. John the Evangelist parish. And then, I went to St. Mary's Academy for high school--two years at the old school, and then two years at the new school.

[00:01:11.25] SHANNON GREEN: And did you have siblings? What did your parents do for a living?

[00:01:15.20] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: My parents met late in life. And I have one brother--he's three-and-a-half years older than I. And my father was an optometrist. He really wanted to go to medical school--he did some medical school himself, but never finished. And my mother worked in an insurance company until she got married, and then later went back to that when the kids were grown.

[00:01:48.20] SHANNON GREEN: And how would you describe your family in terms of your practice of faith or your religious tradition?

[00:01:54.25] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So, we were happy Catholic family. The parish was a big part of our life. Our--St. John's parish was a really vibrant Catholic community with a large grammar school. And our friends, the neighbors, everything seemed to rotate around our life in the parish. And you know, I can just say I was so fortunate--the family I grew up in--that I was so blessed in my family and my childhood.

[00:02:38.03] SHANNON GREEN: When did you first meet the Sisters of St. Joseph?

[00:02:41.12] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: My father's sister was one of our Sisters. So, from the earliest time I can remember, we went on visiting Sunday to visit her. She was the Superior in the early 50's at what was then Infant of Prague convent, but later became Stimson House. So, for those of you who know Stimson House, it was an impressive place, especially when your four or five years old. And I remember the ceilings being so tall. And many of the Sisters who were in the house at the time that I would come as a child to visit say that my aunt always made me play the piano. And what I remember about that is the polished wood, big high ceilings, and this grand piano in the foyer, and that my feet didn't touch the ground. I know somebody had to lift me up on the piano bench. [laughs]. So, Sister Eileen Mitchell [aka Sister St. Gerard Mitchell] and Sister Regina Clare [Sister Regina Clare Salazar] love to tell that story. So--. But that's when I'd first met the Sisters. So, from the time I was so small, and I think through all of my education--grammar school and high

school--they were such joyous women. Really there was something so kind and so joyous about them and about the community life that they shared. So, when I was in high school, I knew at some point that I had a vocation, but it was never a question about what community I was going to. With the Sisters of St. Joseph I was at home.

[00:04:36.29] SHANNON GREEN: Did you talk with your parents about your vocation at that age, or how did that all work out?

[00:04:44.01] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Not until I had already applied, and interviewed. I think I wanted it to be my decision. My parents were nothing but supportive. I remember my mother telling me, "We'll be proud of you if you stay, and we'll be proud of you if come home." And--but for some reason I needed this to be mine. So, they were happy. I think I told them probably six months before I entered. And I was working at Daniel Freeman before I entered, in the lab. So, I got to know the hospital Sisters and the hospital life of the Sisters as well as the school Sisters. And it was Sister Mary Ann Scanlon [(1928-2013), aka Sister Frances Eileen Scanlon] in the lab who helped me enter--picked me up one day at home and drove me up to Carondelet Center.

[00:05:46.18] SHANNON GREEN: Are there other Sisters from that time of your life that were particularly influential that you'd like to tell us about?

[00:05:54.04] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Sister Miriam Joseph Larkin [(1928-2003)] taught me piano, from the time I was in about the 7th grade, through high school, and into college after I entered. I loved Miriam Joseph. And really there was something about the music--she--music was her ministry in her life. And she conveyed such a beautiful spirit. So, Sister Miriam Joseph was very special to me. And then my teachers--many of whom I live with now here at Carondelet Center--how fortunate I am that they are still here to be able to say she taught me. Sister Teresa Ann Coronas taught me in the 8th grade. Sister Barbara Sullivan [Sister Barbara Mary Sullivan, aka Sister Kenneth Ann Sullivan] taught me freshman English. Sister Margaret Mary Murray taught me sophomore English. Sister Roselani [Sister Roselani Enomoto] taught me Religion along the way. How fortunate I am that those women have continued to accompany me in community.

[00:07:33.06] SHANNON GREEN: When you entered--you entered after you graduated from high school, or?

[00:07:37.25] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Yes. I was eighteen. I entered when I was eighteen. [laughs].

[00:07:41.24] SHANNON GREEN: You entered closer to the time of Vatican II [Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)] probably--.

[00:07:46.16] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Yes.

[00:07:47.02] SHANNON GREEN: So, could you tell us a little bit about who else entered, or what the kind of--the spirit of people entering at that time was?

[00:07:54.28] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: The people that entered when I did--we were truly a transition time. We grew up in a pre-Vatican [II] Church. In high school, Vatican II happened. When I entered, things had sort of changed on paper, but I think the Sisters were still learning how that looked in our lives. And so, I really had a taste of the old and the true movement into the new. I so admire the Sisters that were our leaders in formation. Sister Margaret Anne Vonderahe was my postulant director. She's here in the house now--what a treasure for me to be able to see her and share a meal with her. But she--I tell her--she really taught me from the very beginning--modeled for me what that looked like--the ability to let go and change. We were fourteen postulants that entered that year. Three of us were directly out of high school, and that was the last year that they accepted people right out of high school. And of the fourteen, there are two of us who remain--Sister Jean Katherine [Sister Jean Katherine deBlois aka Beverly deBlois] and myself. And Jean Katherine transferred to the St. Louis Province. So, of the fourteen, I'm the only one who remains. Sister Ann Harrington [(-2005)] was our novice director and what beautiful women. So, my parents were older when they met and married, and so my father was up in years at the time I entered and was not well. And again, things hadn't quite changed yet, but those women knew that my father was failing. And normally, a postulant would not go home. But they saw to it that I got home. Sister Margaret Anne was doing a Masters

at Loyola Marymount, and she had to go every Wednesday to school, and she would drop me off on her way, so that I'd have time with my dad, and pick me up on the way back. And what precious--and that was really kindness to me, nothing that the rules told her to do. That was where the heart of this kind of reform of being able to see the rules in light of compassion and the love that we hope to model and live.

[00:11:08.20] SHANNON GREEN: So, your experience then, as you entered, is in transition. Did you--I mean, some of my questions are just the basics, like did you get the habit, and did you--how that all unfolded. But I'm also curious how--did you know--I mean, as much as you could--what was coming? You know, it set the practices, the vernacular--the Latin to vernacular--was--and was that exciting or how did you feel about the Vatican II changes that were right on top of you as you were entering into your religious life? If that makes sense.

[00:11:46.17] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: You know, I wanted to live this life, and I'm not sure it really mattered to me at that point. I wanted to be one of these Sisters who had inspired me and who I felt God was calling me to be. And so, they were modeling that life for me. I remember we got a list of clothing. I did not receive the habit. We, in fact, were the second year that did not receive the habit. We had funny-looking suits, that kind of looked like my St. Mary's Academy high school uniform. But we got a list of things to bring with us. We were to bring a trunk with this list of things. And one thing I remember was they said bring the coat you have. Now, I guess they were sort of assuming that was going to be a black coat. Well, I probably had just told my parents that I was entering at Christmas time, because my mother always wanted a red coat. But my mother said a coat was something that you needed to be kind of something universal that you could wear with everything, and a red coat wasn't practical. Well, that year, I got a red coat for Christmas. And it was the cutest thing. So, when they said you're entering, bring the coat you have, so I bring my red coat. Skirts were kind of short then, and the skirt the coat kind of went way above my knees--it was double-breasted, brass buttons, puffed sleeves--it was really cute. And I don't think I thought a thing about it the first time it was cold, and we were going outside before prayers in the afternoon to walk outside, and it was cold. I thought, I'll go get my coat. Put my red coat on. And somebody saw me from an upstairs window and I got reported pretty quickly--and then told to send the red coat home and ask my parents to buy me a black coat and mail it up here. So no, the--we were all living into what Vatican II meant in our lives. But I don't think it mattered to me. I was on a journey that was love-bound, and I didn't--whatever they had asked me to wear or whatever rules there were, that was fine. And I think then, gradually, I was on the same journey, learning what that meant and how we lived into it.

[00:14:50.02] SHANNON GREEN: And on that note, what about that time--then just as a Catholic and in your religious life--strikes you about Vatican II, and what were some of those impactful changes?

[00:15:01.02] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Well, I grew up with the Latin Mass, and the priest's back to you, and in high school, I went for the first time to Mass with some of my friends at Loyola University. And I just thought how wonderful that was. I remember that it was such a freeing experience to be able to pray that way. And again--but that was my own maturation in the spirit of Vatican II, just like the rest of the Church.

[00:15:41.24] SHANNON GREEN: So, when you--what do you remember about taking your vows and--I'm thinking now, if you didn't receive the habit, what was that whole kind of ceremony and ritual--what were some of the markers of that for you?

[00:15:55.19] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: We had--we got a veil. We had a nice dress that seems to me could be blue, black, brown or gray--and a veil. So, we did look like Sisters, you know. It was a definite--you didn't go to the grocery store, and all of a sudden you knew, "Oh, I guess people--I look different." And that was entrance into the novitiate. There wasn't much about entrance into the novitiate that was ceremonial. It was a very simple service, like a prayer service in the afternoon. I know my parents were here. First vows was really big. I made first vows on St. Joseph's Day of 1971. It was the same Mass that the Sisters celebrated Jubilees, and it was Sister Miriam Joseph and Sister Regina Clare--that group--were celebrating their Silver Jubilees at the same Mass that we made first vows. And it was in the chapel here at Carondelet Center, and Paul Salamunovich [KCSG, (1927-2014), Music Director of LA Master Chorale] directed the Mount choir from that choir loft with the organ playing. All I remember was, it was beautiful. And I believe there were thirteen of us that ended up making first vows. But everything was overshadowed by making first vows. Been looking for this--been wanting this--knowing that this is--I'm doing this for the rest of my life.

[00:18:14.03] SHANNON GREEN: Did you receive a religious name?

[00:18:15.28] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Yes, I did. Can we stop a minute?

[00:18:20.23] [Director's comments--video paused].

[00:18:21.15] SHANNON GREEN: So, would you tell us the story of your religious name?

[00:18:24.28] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: The story of my religious name is that I was born Adele Marie, and I was named after Sister Adele Marie [Lemon]. Sister Adele Marie was one of the first Sisters from our Province to go to Hawaii in the 1930s. And she was a friend of my aunt. And I was born in 1950, and Sister Adele Marie wrote a book in 1950 called "To You From Hawaii". My mother was in the hospital having me, had not picked out a girl's name, and read about Sister Adele Marie's book, and thought that--that was a nice name, she liked that name. And she knew my aunt knew Sister Adele Marie. So, she named me Adele Marie. Well, Sister Adele Marie was going strong when I entered. So, I didn't want to get mixed up with Sister Adele Marie. We had a plain Sister Adele [??], and so I asked for "Marie Adele", just switching it around. And I kept that name actually until I went to medical school, because I thought this was going to get kind of complicated when my birth certificate and all of that was--so then I went back to Adele.

[00:19:48.00] SHANNON GREEN: Is there anyone else from those days when you're just entering or entered that you want to share any memories--of Vatican II and what was striking you, impacting you deeply in those days? You mentioned liturgy--it's--you're entering time is unusual--in our project is unusual, so I often ask about the change in governance, you know, the change in spiritual practice, the change in how to approach ministry, or the opening up of ministries, from Sisters who were in ten, fifteen, twenty years before Vatican II. But that's not the case with you. So, I didn't know how those overall shifts--how you experienced those.

[00:20:38.16] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: I think for the time that I entered religious life, it was unusual that a Sister would say, "I would like to be--whatever". And had worked at Daniel Freeman before I entered, and I knew I wanted healthcare--I loved healthcare. I think if medicine had been an option at that point, I would have wanted to do that. But, it--I mean, that wasn't--you worked in a hospital, so I picked pharmacy. And I asked--I said, "I'd like to be a pharmacist." That was just when we were preparing for first vows. And in the second--your novitiate--you really take only Theology and study the vows. And so, I wasn't doing any like academic preparation while I was here. But that was really unusual, to be able to say, "You know, I'd like to be a pharmacist." And what I can remember, the Sister that was in charge of healthcare ministries at that time saying to me, "Well, there will be no retraining." I think there were a number of Sisters that felt the freedom with Vatican II, to be able to say, "I was asked to teach, but that's not really where my gifts are--I would like to do something else." And even Sisters who had a lot of preparation in a given field would say, "But that's not what I really would love to be able to do." So--but the Sister said, "Fine." And right after first vows, I was called to the Provincial's office one night during choir practice--"I understand that you would like to go into pharmacy." And I said, "Yes." She said, "I think you'll go to Arizona. It's--you could live at the--you could study at the University of Arizona, and you could live at St. Mary's Convent--they have a student community there, and think that would be good--you'll go there, and you'll go in June." Well, I'd never been to Arizona. And to step off a plane in Tucson in June was a shock. Again it didn't matter to me, and really if I had understood how unusual that was, to be able to say, "I'd like to study pharmacy", and have the Provincial say, "Okay." So, I really was in that transition time in ministry.

[00:23:42.13] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Then I lived through the next transition, which was--'71 I went there--and I graduated from the School of Pharmacy in '75, and made final vows that same year. Again, that was also a transition--I made final vows in Tucson, in the local community where I had been living. And then I stayed in the pharmacy and worked there. And during those years, there was--this transition--you know, really when you think about it this is only 7 years after I had entered community, and Vatican II took us years to live it. And one thing that happened that year was, Sisters looking for a little different kind of community life. And I had lived for four years in a house of 36 Sisters--the hospital convent--there were Sisters worked in the hospital, Sisters who studied.

[00:24:55.26] [Director's comments].

[00:25:12.23] SHANNON GREEN: So, a house of 36--

[00:25:15.09] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So, I had gone to Tucson in '71, and lived for four years in a house of 36 Sisters. There was a spirit afoot that it would be nicer to live in smaller groups, kind of like those first Sisters did in the kitchen of Le Puy, you know--live in smaller groups where we could really get to know each other and pray in different ways. And so, a group of us moved out into a house in a neighborhood. That was one change. I've never lived in a big house since. But--and then, the other was the spirituality that was developing--coming out of Latin America for preferential option for the poor. And I remember thinking, "I'm in my 20's, and I'm a pharmacist now--are we going to be in hospitals in the future? Are we going to be in institutions really is the question--or are we really going to be in the streets with the poor?" And you know, we had a crazy idea in Arizona. I remember talking--Sister Sharon [??] and I lived together those years, and several of the other healthcare Sisters who did various things in the hospital. And we said, "Wouldn't that be fun if we could get like an RV and go out--we'll go out to the desert, you know--to the poor places where people can't afford healthcare. We could treat anybody--they don't have to pay, we'll just take care of them." And that would be such a tremendous ministry, to be able to take care of poor people and give them healthcare. I sure thought about that--the last Board meeting I was at, at Circle the City, when we just bought our fourth mobile clinic. Now, this may be pretty close to fifty years later, but that dream happened. Anyway, I'm thinking we're going to--this might be--even though it's still echoing in my ears, "There will be no retraining"--I'm thinking, I wanna be with the people. So, that was when I floated the idea of medical school.

[00:27:58.18] SHANNON GREEN: Before we talk about that, I'd--it strikes me that you said you were--you'd entered, you'd maybe been in seven years, Vatican II, you're twenty-five-ish, and you're thinking are we going to be in institutions in the future.

[00:28:13.17] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Yes.

[00:28:13.17] SHANNON GREEN: I'm very struck that you--that that was that clear a question at that moment. It says to me that this question about Sisters in institutions is a question that's been present for much longer than I would have thought. Is that--I'm just struck by that. Do you--what were you seeing then that already you're thinking about the future of institutions? That's a while ago, and the age of the Sisters is not what it is now. You know, you had an [unintelligible] before I thought. I don't know if there's anything more to say about that.

[00:28:49.12] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: I think it was a bigger question in the congregation even than the Province. And I sort of was hearing that. I believe our St. Paul Province sold their hospitals early on--put that money into neighborhood clinics. I believe that it came out of that preferential option for the poor, because if we get sick and go to a hospital, you'll go into an emergency room--when you're really sick, even if you don't have money somebody will take care of you. But it was the people out there who have no one. So, it was more an "opting for" than an "opting away from". And I remember studying in hospitals that were not Catholic--doing clinical rotations there. They're excellent hospitals--people got great healthcare. So, do you really need me there? [laughs]. Or do you need me in a place where I'm going to be giving care to people that would not otherwise get it?

[00:30:17.17] SHANNON GREEN: Thank you. That's a new insight for me. So, would you continue telling how you started to discern medical school?

[00:30:30.12] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So--[laughs]--"there will be no retraining"--and I was told that very clearly. But, I'm in my 20's--

[00:30:44.19] [Director's comments].

[00:31:25.17] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So, I had been told very clearly, "there will be no retraining". But I had this idea about the future and even about future ministry in community--about our ministries and how they would change as we go into the future, not just my own. And we had this great idea, about an RV, and

we're going to go out to the desert and we're going to take care of people. And I was a pharmacist--and pharmacists are totally dependent on the doctor that writes the prescription. And I remember thinking, "Well, why don't we just do it ourselves? There's no reason we couldn't just--I'll do that--I could go to medical school--that would be kind of fun." Floated the idea. And I knew that no one had done it in our Province before. We had a Board of Studies at that time. If Sisters wanted advance degrees, you had to apply. And this was kind of a complicated request, because the Sisters on the Board of Studies felt that it had implications for our life, for our life in community, for our ministry in the future, and legal/financial implications. So, before I would embark on that they wanted to clear, kind of, all those hurdles. I remember the worry that medical school might take me kind of too far to the edges and maybe I'd leave. I remember the worry--[laughs]--a specific worry that was articulated was, who would hire you? [laughs]. Because--

[00:33:24.17] [Director's comments].

[00:34:00.16] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: One of the concerns I remember was, who would hire you? And they sent--the Board of Studies sent that out as a question to our hospital administrators. If we had a Sister who was a doctor would you hire her? And actually, most said no. But I really wasn't thinking about working in hospitals. And then there was a question about, what if you got sued? Could they take community property if you got sued for some tremendous amount of money. So, the Sisters were thinking, you know, clearing all kinds of practical things. It took a long time. And after I floated the question, I just knew I'd just better keep moving, and so I had--pharmacy was pretty good pre-reqs for medicine. I had everything except a Biology course--I took a Biology course at night while I was working in the pharmacy. And then I took the MCATS [Medical College Admission Test]. And then, I remember asking if I could apply. Well, they hadn't made a decision yet. They said, "Well, you can apply, but we're not saying that if you get in you can go." And then I got invitations for interviews. "Well, you can go interview but we're not saying that if you--". And then I got accepted, and the first place I got accepted was at NYU [New York University] in New York City. Oh, and I had loved that when I interviewed there. Oh, it was just--something I had never seen before--interviewed at Bellevue [Hospital] and that. Then I got in, and community said, "No." Sister Mary Kevin Ford was the Superior General at the time, and she did not believe that that was an appropriate place for my training, and I respect that. They--now it was hard, because you never know if that's the only one you're going to get. But then I got into Tufts in Boston, and she said that would be fine--I could live with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. And--that that would be--fine. So, for a while I really thought that was where I was going to go. Then when I got into the University of Arizona, it was so much cheaper, and the Sisters said pull out of Tufts and that I was going to--I would go to the U of A and they told me yes, that I could go to medical school, on the condition that when I finished, I would do one of three things: I would either work in the Emergency Room of one of our five sponsored hospitals in the Province, I would work in the missions in Peru, or I would take care of the retired Sisters at Carondelet Center. And I said, "Fine", because I figured that by the time I finished, nobody would remember what they said. [laughs]. And that turned out to be right. And I was just so excited to be able to do that.

[00:37:48.22] SHANNON GREEN: Would you say a little bit about--just any reflection of--as you're studying medicine now, how the thought of your vocation, or serving--how that's developing or growing in this context, of now a new identity is evolving as a physician?

[00:38:10.20] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: I've always felt that medicine and my religious life were great--partners. One fed the other. I always--I remember another thing the Board of Studies said early on was there will be no private practice. I was never--I never, ever wanted that, because it was--there were so many opportunities to integrate that into our ministerial life as Sisters of St. Joseph.

[00:38:50.03] [Director's comments.]

[00:39:15.20] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So, I always felt like medicine and my religious life--I never felt that there was a conflict there. One nourished the other. And I made choices about where I would practice based on how this was integrated into our mission and ministry. And they have--these have just been fabulous years.

[00:39:55.00] SHANNON GREEN: So, when you graduated, what were your--how did your ministries unfold after medical school?

[00:40:05.09] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So, I graduated from medical school in 1984, and it was never a question to me that I'd do family medicine. And I think because, by that time--by the time I got through four years of medical school, I knew that family medicine was where--I was going to get enough that if I was in some underserved out of the way place, I had enough of everything to be able to "punt". And got some OB [obstetrics], got some Behavior Health, got some GYN [gynecology]. So, when I finished, I was never tempted to specialize. A lot of--in third year medical school you do your basic rotations, and there's all kinds of people saying they want to do primary care. Then you get into your fourth year, and the electives are specialties, and then you get to see, oh, wow, ophthalmologist, you know--they've got a great lifestyle--dermatologists, you know--don't have to deal with death and dying, don't get woken up in the middle of the night--just you know, radiology, wow--that--there's some specialties that would have a great lifestyle, but wouldn't serve me if I wanted to really take care of the poor. So, I applied to Family Medicine residencies, and ended up ranking first staying right where I was in Tucson, and was accepted there. It was a great program, because they were training Family Medicine doctors to go out to the rural parts of the state. There was a lot of rural Arizona that was unserved. So, we got that kind of training, and I will always be grateful for that. I have served in rural areas, where you have to think that part out, that there's nobody else around, that--. But for the most part, I've served in underserved areas in the middle of a big city where it's the same thing, because you're--this person can't get to that specialist and get specialty care. And I'm going to have to be on the phone calling that specialist and getting them to help me and talk me through. So, I stayed there and finished my internship and residency in 1987, and since that time, from there on, it was various underserved places--all of them just wonderful in their own way.

[00:43:15.25] SHANNON GREEN: So, would this--would there be anything you would want to share more about that time before we start talking about Circle the City specifically?

[00:43:24.08] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Yes. I--so, I finished residency in '87, taught for one year, stayed there in Tucson, and then Carondelet Health Network was trying to help out a rural hospital in Benson, Arizona, which is Cochise County--it's the southeastern corner of the state. And there was a little 22-bed rural hospital there. And so, I worked in a Carondelet clinic down there and that was--an experience of rural medicine that was very valuable, you know? Did some hospice home deaths down country roads--and it was wonderful. I did some OB while I was down there. And then, after that experience, when that little clinic closed, was when I decided, "You know, I kind of liked Phoenix--I think I'll move to Phoenix." I loved this intercommunity house I had lived in up there while I had studied, and there was all kinds of need up there. So, the first job I took was at the Arizona State Psychiatric Hospital. And I was there for about three years, and those years were invaluable to what I would do later. It's like everything builds on the next--pharmacy--the years of pharmacy were never wasted because they provided me some enriching knowledge for what I would need for the next time. And then--but those years at the State Hospital--I had no idea homelessness was in my future. And that mental illness would be so big. Just how to get comfortable with how the body and the psyche interact. So, I'll always be grateful for those years. Then I did one more kind of rural immigrant clinic in between.

[00:45:45.02] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: When I got a phone call one day--and the phone call was they need a doctor at homeless. This was April of '96. And you know, I was really happy where I was. I--but I kept thinking about--you know, I trained to take care of the poor, and I'm being told that they need a doctor at this little Skid Row clinic to take care of homeless--how could I say no to that? So, I went there, and I got down there and I thought, "I made a big mistake--this is woah". The clinic was old and run down, and the roof leaked, and it stunk when it rained, because the sump pump didn't work. There was crab grass growing through the walls. The people were lined up early outside the door. And you know, there I was--haven't looked back through this many years. I can't imagine--it was like a crossing over time, you know, where you cross over from one place into another, and you say, "Once I've seen this, I can't go back." I just--I knew that--I couldn't go back to beautiful first world, clean medicine. So, that was the beginning of my journey with homelessness. And I say that God has been in it ever since. [laughs].

[00:47:40.24] SHANNON GREEN: I'm thinking about the preaching you gave at your Jubilee, where you can make very clear connections to foundations of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Le Puy [France]. Could you just share a little bit of your musings about the similarities, or what about the history of our Sisters that--

[00:48:02.22] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Yes. So, as I learned more about--you know, when I first entered, we didn't talk about the charism. [laughs]. We really didn't. I don't think I heard that word before I entered. I knew this was where I belonged--that with the Sisters of St. Joseph was where my call was. But it's only through the years that it's like puzzle pieces that fit together, that you say, "I'm--that's why I felt so much at home." And why I felt that this was the place for me was because where I felt God's call was such a fit with the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. So, what I've learned is, that rural France in 1650, where these Sisters went out to the streets of this little town, that you go there now and you say, "Oh, what a beautiful little town." It's gorgeous--it's quaint and these people that--you know, make that beautiful lace, and--. Well, the more you learn about the heritage--there was no idyllic vision of Le Puy in 1650. It was [a] suffering world. People were at war--wars were happening all the time. There was famine. The government was imposing taxes on people and the people would riot. Healthcare--I read about healthcare--and one in four children died before their first birthday. And plague, and disease were just commonplace. And the poor were dying faster than the rich. So, pretty similar to today. And then you think about the fact that it was that suffering world that called forth these women who wanted to go out to the streets and be with the people. And Father Medaille [Father Jean-Pierre Médaille [(1610-1669), Jesuit priest, sponsor of CSJs] being inspired and that how--it had been tried before, but that he was successful in guiding these women to be this apostolic community that would go out to the streets and be with the people. So, you know, I say that is so much of what has been profound for me, about homelessness and caring for persons experiencing homelessness--that it's like today's translation of "divide the city"--go out to the streets, be with the people. What do the people need? Just go be with them--they'll tell you what they need.

[00:51:18.24] SHANNON GREEN: Thank you. I'm also thinking of that story you told about a gentleman who asked you to buy him a cup of coffee, and what that experience was like for you, or seeing him out--

[00:51:34.27] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Shall I tell that story?

[00:51:36.07] SHANNON GREEN: Would you?

[00:51:36.13] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Sure. So, this night--and what was really interesting to me was, it was Holy Thursday. And I used to do outreach on Thursday afternoons, in a van. We'd go out and when volunteers would find somebody that they felt needed to see the doctor, they'd call. And I was called to go see somebody that they were worried about because he was laying on the front lap of a restaurant on a street corner. This restaurant had been abandoned, and it was just a pile of trash on the front lap of this restaurant. And so, we drove up and sure enough you could kind of see this guy sleeping under this pile of trash. And we woke him up, and you know, "Is there anything we can do for you? How are you doing?" "Oh, I'm doing okay, doing okay." "What do you need?" He said, "I do need something." And he pulls out of his pocket this dirty old one dollar bill. And he says, "Would you go across the street for me to Circle K and buy me a cup of coffee, because I'm not allowed in there." And I said, "Sure", and took his dollar bill, and crossed over there and standing in line with this cup of coffee--really odd feeling, you know. I'm allowed in here and he isn't. And I'm looking out the window while I'm waiting to pay for that coffee, and there he is standing across the street, you know--the two worlds that that man standing in that world in the trash, and me over here in this world where he's not allowed. And the fact that I'm just not going to be able to do anything to bring those worlds together. My reflection on that was, that then why do I keep coming back to work every day, you know? If this is so hopeless that I'm never going to be able to bring about unity of neighbor with neighbor--if I'm never going to be able to come closer with bringing those worlds together--why do I keep coming back here every day? Why am I doing this? And that realization that it's because I believe in the power of God--the power of Love--to do what I can't do--to do what this work is asking of me, that I can't do. It has to be God. So many of those--and can you imagine going to church for the washing of the feet that night? I just--that was a very profound moment for me of illustration of what that charism looks like. Unity.

[00:55:08.16] SHANNON GREEN: So, tell us about the birth of Circle [the City]--you're in this ministry now for homeless, and you're serving them as a physician and [unintelligible].

[00:55:19.05] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So, it was known--assumed--by everyone that took care of persons experiencing homelessness in Phoenix, that the biggest need was a place for the sickest to go. That we were the largest city in the United States that had nowhere for the sickest people to go. So, hospitals



would discharge--and maybe you were okay to be discharged, if you had a clean bed and a bathroom and a telephone and a family and food. But when you have none of those things, and you're discharged from the hospital a couple of days after surgery with a fresh surgical wound, can't breathe, pulling your oxygen tank, terminal diagnosis, you know? And those people were laying in the gutter--laying on the sidewalks. We'd find them--we'd come in in the morning and people would be laying outside the front door. And you say, "How can this possibly be that we let this happen?" But everyone knew that, but there was just no way--we call that "medical respite" for persons experiencing homelessness. And everyone nationally, even at that time--this is now the late '90s--accepted that as best practice. It is a best practice. It's a win-win for everybody--the person who's sick has a dignified, clean place where they have actually the possibility of getting well. The hospital discharges and the person's not back in the Emergency Room that night. The police, the fire department are not getting called over and over again, and people are treated with dignity. There's no dignity about being sick on a corner someplace. So, but the problem is, even though it's accepted as best practice, there's no funding stream. It's where hospice was forty years ago. So, it wasn't a question of should we, it was a question of how will we get this done? And people--it really started probably in my faith community, at my parish, that people knew that I worked down at this clinic that was right in the middle of where thousands of people congregate that are homeless. And people come up to me after church, you know, hand me a twenty, say, "Do something for somebody." And I threw the money in a shoebox--that was--I had a shoebox in the closet--drug closet--and I'd throw the money in there. And then when somebody would come in, like somebody that had an infestation of bugs that needed to be treated, but no clean clothes, that you go buy clean clothes--there would be money in the shoebox for that. Hearing aid batteries, baby food, diapers. I remember one time on Christmas Eve there was a family passing through town and their car conked out. Well, they're living in the park--in the parking lot in this car, just because they don't have the money to get their car repaired. Well, there was money in the shoebox. I mean, that money--it just came. I would--it didn't matter what it was, there was enough money in that shoebox. And then I'd spend it and it would come back. And you know, I said there was a point in time there when I realized that it was the love of the community in that box. Because truly, the diversity of the community--yoga clubs, book clubs, the Kiwanis, the medical schools, the--it didn't matter what it was, people got it. Because you could say, "Well where do you think people go when they get out of the hospital if they don't have a home?" And everybody understood that. So, for a while, you know, I was--I felt like I had this terrible secret that I knew, which was that that was happening--that those people were laying on the sidewalk. Because there's so many good people around, and if they knew that, they really knew that, they wouldn't let it happen. And you know, I was right. Because the money just came. And with the money came volunteer energy--people coming out of the woodwork, saying how can I help? What can I do? And it took a long time. It took about--I would say from the time we really concerted effort--probably 2002 about--until we opened the doors of the first respite center in October of '12--so about ten years. And it was--a lot of it was just telling that story over and over again. "Where do you think people go?" And once people knew the goodness, really that--of people is just amazing.

[01:01:38.14] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So, and all this time, in community, you know, I was the Medical Director of that program. And it was a large program. And once I realized that to get this respite center open, I needed to spend some time putting some infrastructure together, I had to ask the community--there's this need. Could we support it? And the community has been there from the very beginning. We nurtured--that shoebox turned into a bank account in under Sisters of St. Joseph Ministerial Services. A very short transition until it went out on its own, into its own little corporation, which became Circle the City and then hasn't looked back. And that program now is two fifty-bed respite centers, two family health centers, four mobile clinics, multiple neighborhood on-foot providers and groups. So, it's--I think the modern-day equivalent of "divide the city".

[01:03:14.13] SHANNON GREEN: And just--any other reflections about or stories about how this has impacted you and your--I mean, there's your leadership, but I also get the sense from you, you--this is just you followed your call, and where the Spirit was leading, and I just wanted to know if you have more reflections on how this just impacted you, your identity, your faith journey, seeing the neighbor and responding.

[01:03:47.09] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Just say that one more time.

[01:03:58.20] SHANNON GREEN: Well, I just wanted to make sure so that--we want to capture the story of

how Circle the City comes about. But I don't want to lose Adele's story.

[01:04:05.23] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: I see. I knew that I had this privileged place of being in the exam room with these people. I was so personally inspired by the people I cared for. I thought, "I'm the luckiest doctor in the world." I--you know, there's some days when prayer is easy, and there's some days when prayer is hard. And I thought, on days when prayer is hard, all I have to do is go to work, walk in that exam room, and Jesus is there. It was--it didn't take much imagination--didn't take much--it was a dirty wound that needed cleaning out or somebody that needed listening to. And it was always very blurry about who was giving to who here, because such a--such simplicity about success in life, the things that have gone right for me, and the places where I have failed. And you know, I always--I thought if I could be that way, of what I saw--and it was never clear--it was okay not to see results, you know? Not to see somebody's immediately going to get better. Somebody's going to be able to come in and trust us. You never saw--it was okay not to see the impact of what your work--the work of your hands was doing.

[01:07:09.10] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: There's a story that I've told about a man--his name was Jerry. We were still in the old clinic, so this was sometime before 2005. And it was the heat of summer--just hot summer day. And this guy came in because he had a rash. And it was a bad rash--it was all--his whole body covered in this rash. And his clothes were all stuck to him. So, we brought him back to an exam room, and we had to soak his clothes off of him. And the nurses were so beautiful--to watch with people. He was quite inebriated. We had--but for a long time--it took time with him and soaked those clothes off him. He told us his story, and I just remember being struck by that, that this could have been any one of us. It could have been any one of us on a hot summer day, just with that awful rash, going in asking for some basic human kindness. And anyway, got the clothes off, we slathered ointment all over him, and wrapped arms and legs in gauze, and found him some clean clothes, and sent him out. And he said, "Oh, I don't think anybody's every been this nice to me before." Thanked him, gave him some food, gave him some medicine, told him to come back on Monday. It's Friday. And he didn't come. And we sent out Outreach looking for him--couldn't find him. And then the next day, the police came, and they had found him dead in the alley. And they saw his bag with our address on, so they knew that we had seen him. And you know, I remember looking at those nurses. These were people of all faiths, that tenderly cared for that man, and listened to him, and I thought, you know, what we did--we prepared his body for burial. We washed it, and anointed it, and we wrapped it. And we didn't know that's what we were doing at the time. Or that we were not going to see him again. And that we never know the impact of what we do today.

[01:10:13.17] SHANNON GREEN: That's very moving--thank you. You and Circle the City have gotten a lot of recognition. What is that like for you as a religious who's very much in a culture of humility--and you very much obviously talk about this in terms of "we" all the time, it's never "you", just you. But I just wonder if that's been a challenge at all, to be more in the spotlight or if that's been a gift in terms of forwarding the ministry?

[01:10:54.08] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: I think it--initially it was a quandary about--ooh, should I even take this. We were so deep in trying to get the word out in order to get the--what we needed to open a building, that I think initially it didn't--it was, well, if you'll--if this is a way that I can tell the story, and I can tell the story for the people who need their story told--and the only reason I was credible is because I had one foot in the exam room. That was the only--you know--I'm sure that--and there were so many good people that wanted to help--were looking for that way to help, and have found it to this day, through Circle the City. I read something that Sister Kathleen Clark [Sister Mary Kathleen Clark (1920-2003)], who founded Casa de los Niños--she wrote, one time, about this same topic was--this is the leaven of love--that there are so many people who have heard about our work, and then joined it, who feel that their lives have been made richer by that work. And that's it the multiplication of that--it's the "leaven" of Love. So, I think the answer to the publicity question is really--and then you--sorry--got kind of off track there. What this has done to empower other people--it's like a--"Well, how did you do that?" I didn't--we did. But so, what are we going to do next? And that's what always happens, is that it's that empowering of where God's grace can take us. And my life has certainly been richer. And I think a lot of other people's have too.

[01:13:53.04] SHANNON GREEN: You mentioned Sister Kathleen Clark, and she's someone I'm very curious about. Do you have anything you could share with us about her or her ministry? Just because she's no longer with us?

[01:14:07.13] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: I don't know the intricate story, other than I know people who were around in the 19--late '60s, when she opened the crisis nursery--that she actually would meet people in a parking lot at night, and take a baby that was going to be endangered that night. And she really walked the walk. But where I have felt a very--a real sisterhood with Kathleen is in the founding of Circle the City, because when I tell the Circle the City employees the story of the ministry of the Sisters in the state of Arizona in the historical context, Circle the City comes right behind Casa de los Niños. And there's just so many similarities--it's a community project, it's a--it was not a sponsored ministry. It's a very inclusive project of people of all faiths and all neighborhoods. And she went out and begged in community for the money to get that going. So, I feel a real kinship with Kathleen.

[01:15:31.03] SHANNON GREEN: Sounds like yet another transformative Arizona ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph. You mentioned the history--we're coming up on the 150 years of the Sisters in Arizona. Just--do you have any reflections in terms of the whole--are you thinking about that in terms of your own experience and Circle the City and this larger context?

[01:15:55.18] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Well, it's big for Circle the City, because it is the surviving healthcare ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Arizona. CSJ founded, inspired--and we work very hard to keep the charism alive and to train the staff--formally train the staff in the charism, so that it will carry on. But I guess, as I tell the Circle the City employees the story about the Trek [Trek of the Seven Sisters (1870)], about you know, if you're going to go on a journey with the Sisters of St. Joseph, this is what you've got to be prepared for. [laughs]. You're--you know, hold on, because it's a wild ride, and you're going to be--sink into the shadow of death at times. And so--but then I also tell them, "You are the ministry that survives now, to carry on what those Sisters came across that desert for." And they're always moved by that. So, I'm--and I'm grateful that the Trek this year is going to stop at Circle the City on the way home, because it's been celebration of our wonderful past and present, and then a look at the future as we end that trip, so--.

[01:17:52.01] SHANNON GREEN: You mentioned you made great efforts to inform the employees of Circle the City in the charism. Would you just share a little bit about that process? How have you done that? And just if there's a story or something you've noticed as a result--a fruit of that.

[01:18:07.09] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: So, we have now brought ten--I believe, ten--getting prepared for the eleventh group--of Circle the City staff, to Carondelet Center for three days. I always wanted--I was the only Sister of St. Joseph that Circle the City employed. And--but we have two Sisters, including myself, on the Board. But I wanted them to know more. I wanted them to know about our history, to know about what that means, when we say, "We continue in the tradition and charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph"--what does that mean? And so, they come for three days to Carondelet Center. The first night, we do the history from Le Puy to St. Louis, and then on the second day, it's divided into one hour segments, where they have about three speakers in each hour, that only talk for about 15 minutes or so. But the movement of the day is the first hour through the traditional ministries of education and healthcare in the hospitals, and then in the second hour, we introduce this concept of the Catholic Church had something in the '60s called Vatican II, and what that did was tell the Sisters, "Go back to the spirit of your founders." So, those women we talked about last night in 1650 in Le Puy--go back to the spirit. And this is what we were told when we went back to the spirit--what we learned is, "divide the city", go out, be with the people. What is it? Attentive to the signs of the times--what is the spirit telling you? And if you're going to do all that women is capable of, what does that look like for you? Where are your gifts? Where are your talents? And then, we take through some of the things that have happened since Vatican II. Sister Annette Debs talks about her journey to study law and to be a judge because of that thirst for justice. We have Get on the Bus come, because then our people always feel a kinship with Get on the Bus, because the organizations work with so much the same population. We have Sister Mary Schneider talk about the Ministry of Creative Movement, and how she uses that gift that she has for bringing wholeness and healing to children and elders and everyone. We have some--he had Sister Constance Fitzgerald come so many times--and she's unable now. But talked about her ministry in Delano with the farmworkers, and boycotting grapes, and all of the social justice work through the years. We have Sister Barbara Sullivan come and talk about the thirst for justice that led Clare [Sister Clare Dunn (-1981), member Arizona State House of Representatives] and Judy [Sister Judy Lovich (1936-1981)] to the legislature, and about their giving their lives for that in Arizona. And then we take a little field

trip--oh, and they meet Sister Louise Bernstein and then we take a field trip to St. Joseph Center, which always grabs them, because wheels are turning about forty years, really? What do you think Circle the City will look like in forty years? We're only eight years old. What are we going to be like when we're forty years old? And how will we have changed as they have done, to be attentive to the signs of the times? And then we spend a last day on Arizona. We take the history from St. Louis [Missouri], across the desert and the Trek, and then talk about the ministries in Arizona, of teaching, and healthcare, and about Kathleen Clark and what she did. And then end with Circle the City, and say, "Okay, what have you learned and what are you going to take back?" It's a great--they go back so fired up. In fact, I had a gentleman on the last tour that is a case manager in our downtown family health center, really working the hardest population on the street--engagement, mental healthcare with them. But he was so moved by the trip that he asked me to write in my handwriting "divide the city" on a little piece of notebook paper, because he had taken a picture of a piece of lace and was going to get a tattoo. I was puzzled--surprised is probably a good word. I guess I'd never thought about the translation of the charism into a symbol of 21st century dedication like that. But after they went home, I was sent a picture, and indeed we now have someone working on the streets of Phoenix to comfort and heal and be compassionate who has a tattoo of a piece of lace that says "divide the city". What can I say? It's the charism continues--with great fervor.

[01:24:01.24] SHANNON GREEN: You know, I often ask, do you have any anxieties or hopes about the future of the charism, given the current state of religious life, but my sense is--

[01:24:10.21] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: No.

[01:24:12.11] SHANNON GREEN: You're not worried.

[01:24:14.06] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: I'm not worried. I'm not worried about the charism in the future. I've seen it--with my eyes I've seen it. And see every day people lives are changed. And it will continue. I'm sure it will continue.

[01:24:36.07] SHANNON GREEN: Do you have anything you want to share about your transition into leadership now? It's a big change in ministry for you.

[01:24:44.05] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: I was called to leadership in 2018, and at the time I was Chief Medical Officer of a growing organization. I never--through the discernment process for leadership--I never came to a place where I could say, "I have a reason to say I can't do this." And so, I kept my name in the process and said yes when the time came. And what has happened is--I mean, there have been bumps in the road, you know--some transitions are hard for organizations, I think especially when the founder leaves. Because there's some growth--with the growth of the organization--the founder occupies a different role as time goes on, and so that's fine. But what I saw was empowerment. And particularly the people who had been to Carondelet Center, learned the charism, and it's like, "Really? You trust me to do that?" Oh yes, yes, we the Sisters of St. Joseph trust you to do that. And it has brought growth in so many ways. So, you know, God works in ways that we don't see coming sometimes. But I am convinced it was the right thing for both ends. [laughs].

[01:26:39.25] SHANNON GREEN: Are you still able to practice medicine now?

[01:26:43.04] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Not as such. Although I kind of have some--no, as such, I'm not. Really because I have a full-time job. I got a California license and kept up my Board Certification, and figured that, you know, maybe I can volunteer. It's very hard to carve that kind of time out, and really I've said yes to a full-time commitment, so--that's--it's seeing the bigger picture now for me.

[01:27:18.05] SHANNON GREEN: Before I ask you a few just personal sort of human interest kinds of questions, is there anything that you reflected on that I haven't asked you about that you want to share?

[01:27:31.13] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Oh, let's see.

[01:27:38.04] SHANNON GREEN: Or, is there a Sister that can't speak or share for herself that you'd like to remember for us?

[01:27:48.29] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: You know, the person that comes to my mind--and this is because she's just dear to me--is Sister Mary Ellen Sprouffske. She's upstairs in Holy Family. But--and would not be able to share at this time of her life. But Mary Ellen director our recollection for final vows in 1975--a magic month, of that time when, you know, you've lived the life for enough years to say, yes, this is me. But it's a prayer experience of a month, and Mary Ellen directed that. There were four of us. And she's an artist. And what she gave me that month was such a tremendous insight into Scripture and contemplation and Eucharist, through an artist's eyes. And I just have carried that with me my whole religious life. And Mary Ellen, I'll always be grateful to you for that.

[01:29:52.03] SHANNON GREEN: Thank you. So, some fun questions. What do you like to do for fun?

[01:29:59.15] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: What do I like to do for fun? Let's see, well I like to cook. And it's fun now because I live in a house of four Sisters, and so, we have fun cooking for each other. And I love to read, and I have a public library card. I've never learned to use a Kindle. I have a good old book next to my bed, and the problem is that I'm awake long enough to get through a book very fast. But I love to read. I love a good novel and British authors, and some of the classic ones. Like a good mystery. [laughs]. And you know, I've been a dog person--had three dogs in my time in Arizona. The first one, he was fifteen and a half--I'd had him since he was six months old, and he got old and went to God. And then, I had a big 82-pounder that--I loved Gracie, and she died when she was eight years old of just something, all of a sudden. Then I got a little one after that. But I just think that if you haven't had a relationship with a dog in your life you've missed something. So, those are some of the ways that I relax.

[01:31:43.00] SHANNON GREEN: Is there a living person that you would like to meet if you had the chance?

[01:31:47.18] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Oh. Is there a living person I would like to meet? I can't think of--that would take me a while.

[01:32:02.24] SHANNON GREEN: Any thoughts on the greatest technological advancement that you have witnessed in your lifetime?

[01:32:10.25] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Oh, computers. You know what, I went to medical school--there weren't computers. Learned medicine without a computer. You know, stacks in the library--climbing up to find the magazine and hoping that somebody hadn't taken that one out. And just to see how different things are now. You know, this era of knowledge. So, it's got to be the biggest thing.

[01:32:44.13] SHANNON GREEN: What's your favorite place on Earth?

[01:32:48.04] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: Oh. I have to say Ireland. Been three times, would love to go back.

[01:32:56.00] SHANNON GREEN: Is that your heritage?

[01:32:58.21] SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN: My father's side, yeah.

[01:33:01.03] [Director's comments].

[01:33:33.07] End of interview.

## Interview Index

Project: Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU)--CSJ Oral History Project

Interview Date: 02/07/2020

Interviewee: Sister Adele O'Sullivan

Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Roman Zenz, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Mary Trunk, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University

Location: Carondelet Center, Los Angeles, California.

Transcription Date: 03/12/2020

Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] [Director's comments].

[00:00:11.14] Introduction. Full name and age.

[00:00:39.11] Early life and family.

[00:01:48.20] Early religious life.

[00:02:38.03] Meeting the CSJs. Stimson House [Infant of Prague Convent, Los Angeles, California]. Sister Eileen Mitchell [aka Sister St. Gerard Mitchell]. Sister Regina Clare Salazar.

[00:04:36.29] Parents' reaction to vocation. Sister Mary Ann Scanlon [(1928-2013), aka Sister Frances Eileen Scanlon].

[00:05:46.18] Influential Sisters. Sister Miriam Joseph Larkin, (1928-2003). Sister Teresa Ann Coronas. Sister Barbara Sullivan [Sister Barbara Mary Sullivan, aka Sister Kenneth Ann Sullivan]. Sister Margaret Mary Murray. Sister Roselani Enomoto.

[00:07:33.06] Entering religious life. Vatican II [Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)]. Sister Margaret Anne Vonderahe. Sister Jean Katherine deBlois [aka Beverly deBlois]. Sister Ann Harrington (-2005).

[00:11:08.20] Postulant and novice life. Vatican II. Story about red coat.

[00:14:50.02] Vatican II--changes. Vernacular Mass. Receiving veil but not habit. Making first vows. Sister Miriam Joseph Larkin, Sister Regina Clare Salazar, Silver Jubilee. Paul Salamunovich [KCSG, (1927-2014), Music Director of LA Master Chorale].

[00:18:14.03] Religious name. Sister Adele Marie Lemon (1901-2006). Birth name Adele Marie. Receiving religious name "Marie Adele". Changing name back to "Adele".

[00:19:48.00] Vatican II (cont.) Being assigned to ministries.

[00:23:42.13] Graduating School of Pharmacy 1975. Making final vows.

[00:25:15.09] Initial idea for Circle the City ministry. Decision to attend medical school.

[00:27:58.18] Considering the future of CSJ institutions--individual healthcare rather than hospitals.

[00:30:17.17] Decision to enter medical school (cont.). Community concerns. Sister Mary Kevin Ford.

[00:37:48.22] Medical ministry and religious life.

[00:39:55.00] Early ministries after medical school. Family medicine in Tucson. Working in clinic in Benson, Arizona. Working at Arizona State Psychiatric Hospital.

[00:45:45.02] Beginnings of Circle the City.

[00:47:40.24] Reflections on connection between CSJs in Le Puy, France and Circle the City ministry.

[00:51:18.24] Story of man asking for cup of coffee. Charism and unity.

[00:55:08.16] Beginnings of Circle the City (cont.) Healthcare for homeless discharged from hospitals. Donations in "the shoebox". Story of family with car broken down.

[01:01:38.14] Building infrastructure of Circle the City as a corporation.

[01:03:14.13] Personal impact of ministry with the homeless.

[01:07:09.10] Story about man with rash (Jerry).

[01:10:13.17] Reflections on personal recognition for Circle the City. Sister Mary Kathleen Clark [(1920-2003), founder of Casa de los Niños]. "The leaven of love."

[01:15:31.03] 150 year anniversary of CSJs in Arizona. Trek of the Seven Sisters (1870).

[01:17:52.01] Charism training program for Circle the City volunteers. Sister Annette Debs. Get on the Bus. Sister Mary Schneider and the Ministry of Creative Movement. Sister Constance Fitzgerald and Delano farmworkers. Sister Barbara Sullivan. Sister Clare Dunn [(-1981), member Arizona State House of Representatives]. Sister Judy Lovich (1936-1981). Sister Louise Bernstein. St. Joseph Center.

[01:24:01.24] Future of the charism.

[01:24:36.07] Ministry in leadership.

[01:27:18.05] Other reflections. Sister Mary Ellen Sprouffske.

[01:29:52.03] Hobbies.

[01:31:43.00] Living person would like to meet. Greatest technological advancement. Favorite place on Earth.

[01:33:33.07] End of interview.